

CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method of providing reinforcement, acoustical damping, or sealing to a member of an article of manufacture with a synthetic material, the method comprising:

providing a polymeric base material, the base material being tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C;

providing a polymeric powder, the powder including correspondence components, the powder being substantially non-tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C, the powder exhibiting adhesivity at a temperature greater than 80 °C wherein the correspondence components include an epoxy resin;

dispensing the powder upon the base material to form the synthetic material with at least one substantially non-tacky surface and at least one tacky surface; and  
applying the synthetic material to the member of the article of manufacture.

Claim 21-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the base material is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic-based material, an epoxy-based material and an elastomer based material.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): A method as in claim 20 further comprising, applying release paper to the tacky surface of the synthetic material.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the article of manufacture is an automotive vehicle.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method as in claim 27 wherein the member is selected from the group consisting of a frame member and a body member of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the correspondence components in the powder have a substantially identical monomer or oligomer configuration to polymeric components in the base material with the exception that the correspondence components in the powder have a greater molecular weight or longer polymeric chain structure than the polymeric components in the base material.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the base material includes a blowing agent and is an expandable material.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (currently amended): A method as in claim 20 wherein ~~the base material and the powder are thermosettable materials and~~ the base material includes a curing agent.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the one or more correspondence components represent at least 30 % by weight of the powder.

Claims 35-43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (previously presented): A method of providing reinforcement, acoustical damping, or sealing to a member of an article of manufacture with a synthetic material, the method comprising:

providing a polymeric base material, the base material being tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C wherein the base material is an expandable material;

providing a polymeric powder, the powder including correspondence components, the powder being substantially non-tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C, the powder exhibiting adhesivity at a temperature greater than 80 °C;

dispensing the powder upon the base material to form the synthetic material with at least one substantially non-tacky surface and at least one tacky surface; and

applying the synthetic material to the member of the article of manufacture.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method as in claim 44 wherein the step of applying the synthetic material includes contacting the non-tacky surface of the synthetic material such that the tacky surface of the synthetic material is adhered to the member.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A method as in claim 45 wherein the contacting of the non-tacky surface is carried out by an individual or a machine ~~individual, a machine or a combination thereof.~~

Claim 47 (previously presented): A method as in claim 44 wherein the base material is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic-based material, an epoxy-based material and an elastomer based material.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A method as in claim 44 wherein the article of manufacture is an automotive vehicle.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A method as in claim 48 wherein the member is selected from the group consisting of a frame member and a body member of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 50 (previously presented): A method as in claim 44 wherein the one or more correspondence components are substantially identical to one or more components in the base material.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A method as in claim 44 wherein the correspondence components in the powder have a substantially identical monomer or oligomer configuration to polymeric components in the base material with the exception that the correspondence components in the powder have a greater molecular weight or longer polymeric chain structure than the polymeric components in the base material.

Claim 52 (previously presented): A method as in claim 44 wherein the base material includes a blowing agent and a curing agent.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A method as in claim 44 wherein the one or more correspondence components represent at least 30 % by weight of the powder.

Claim 54 (currently amended): A method as in claim 44 wherein at least one of the one or more correspondence components is acrylonitrile ~~selected from the group of an acetate, an acrylate or an elastomer.~~

Claim 55 (currently amended): A method of providing reinforcement, acoustical damping, or sealing to a member of an article of manufacture with a synthetic material, the method comprising:

providing a polymeric base material, the base material being tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C;

providing a polymeric powder, the powder including correspondence components, the powder being substantially non-tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C, the powder exhibiting adhesivity at a temperature greater than 80 °C;

dispensing the powder upon the base material to form the synthetic material with at least one substantially non-tacky surface and at least one tacky surface ~~wherein the polymeric base material, the polymeric powder or both are thermosettable; and~~  
applying the synthetic material to the member of the article of manufacture;  
applying heat to the synthetic material to cross-link the base material such that the base material is substantially incapable of flow.

Claim 56 (currently amended): A method as in claim 55 wherein the step of applying heat occurs in an automobile assembly plant further comprising:  
~~thermosetting the polymeric base material, the polymeric powder or both.~~

Claim 57 (currently amended): A method as in claim 56 wherein the step of applying heat occurs during paint preparation steps of automobile assembly ~~the polymeric base material and the polymeric powder are thermosettable and wherein the step of activating includes thermosetting the base material and the polymeric powder.~~

Claim 58 (previously presented): A method as in claim 56 wherein the article of manufacture is an automotive vehicle.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A method as in claim 56 wherein the one or more correspondence components are substantially identical to one or more components in the base material.

Claims 60 (previously presented): A method as in claim 56 wherein the base material includes a blowing agent and is an expandable material.

Claim 61 (previously presented): A method as in claim 56 wherein the one or more correspondence components represent at least 30 % by weight of the powder.

Claim 62 (previously presented): A method as in claim 56 wherein at least one of the one or more correspondence components is an acrylonitrile ~~selected from the group of an acetate, an acrylate or an elastomer.~~